BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5433 JANUARY 6, 1978
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

THIS WEEK NO. 1

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK!"

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY . . . A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS ----------.

NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER'S SEVEN-NATION TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA AND EUROPE CONTINUED TO MAKE HEADLINES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. AFTER VISITS TO POLAND AND IRAN, MISTER CARTER CONTINUED HIS ITINERARY THIS WEEK BY FIRST VISITING INDIA.

ON MOST OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED BETWEEN PRESIDENT CARTER AND INDIAN PRIME MINISTER MORARJI DESAI -- THE MIDDLE EAST, THE NEED FOR DISARMAMENT, RELATIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -- THE TWO LEADERS APPEARED FAIRLY CLOSE. THE MAIN AREA WHERE DIFFERENCES REMAINED WAS THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR COOPERATION. INDIA IS ANXIOUS FOR ASSURANCES OF CONTINUING SUPPLIES OF ENRICHED URANIUM FOR ITS NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM. THE UNITED STATES, CONCERNED OVER THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WOULD LIKE ADDED SAFEGUARDS TO ENSURE THAT NUCLEAR MATERIAL IS NOT DIVERTED TO NON-PEACEFUL USES.

IN A SPEECH BEFORE THE INDIAN PARLIAMENT, PRESIDENT CARTER DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN INDIA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS DURING MISSUS GANDHI'S EMERGENCY RULE LAST YEAR AND THE WATERGATE SCANDAL IN THE UNITED STATES:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- CARTER

"NOT LONG AGO, BOTH OF OUR PEOPLES' GOVERNMENTS PASSED THROUGH GREAT CRISES. IN DIFFERENT WAYS THE VALUES FOR WHICH SO MANY HAVE LIVED AND DIED WERE THREATENED. IN DIFFERENT WAYS AND ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE WORLD THESE VALUES HAVE NOW BEEN TRIUMPHANT."

NARR:

BEFORE LEAVING NEW DELHI, PRESIDENT CARTER AND PRIME MINISTER DESAI SIGNED A JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, CALLED THE DELHI DECLARATION. IT COMMITS THEIR COUNTRIES TO WORK IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TO REDUCE CONVENTIONAL ARMS. THE DECLARATION CALLS FOR A MORE EQUITABLE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, AND IT ASSERTS BOTH LEADERS' UNWAVERING FAITH IN THE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

IN SAUDI ARABIA -- THE PRESIDENT'S NEXT STOP BEFORE MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT -- MISTER CARTER WAS WELCOMED BY KING KHALID:

TAPE: CUT TWO --KHALID THROUGH AN ENGLISH INTERPRETER

"MISTER PRESIDENT, I WELCOME YOUR EXCELLENCY IN OUR COUNTRY AS A GREAT FRIEND. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS TO FIND A JUST AND LASTING SOLUTION FOR THE PROBLEM OF THE MIDDLE EAST. I WISH YOUR EXCELLENCY HAVE A PLEASANT STAY IN THIS FRIENDLY COUNTRY, AND SUCCESS IN YOUR TRIP AND COMMENDABLE ENDEAVORS."

NARR:

MOST OF THE TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS CENTERED ON RECENT EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. PRESIDENT CARTER REVIEWED THE EVOLUTION OF DIPLOMATIC DEVELOPMENTS SINCE MISTER SADAT'S JERUSALEM VISIT AND RE-STATED U.S. DETERMINATION TO DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO MOVE THE PEACE PROCESS FORWARD. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED DURING MISTER CARTER'S BRIEF VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA INCLUDED OIL AND RELATED MATTERS, AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. THE TWO LEADERS ALSO DISCUSSED THE U.S. DOLLARS, WHICH HAS DECLINED IN VALUE ON

NARR: (CONT'D)

INTERNATIONAL MONEY MARKETS AND IS A SOURCE OF CONCERN TO THE SAUDIS WHO HOLD MOST OF THEIR FOREIGN CURRENCY RESERVES IN DOLLARS.

IN ASWAN, EGYPT, PRESIDENT CARTER AND SADAT DISCUSSED THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION AND OTHER MAJOR ISSUES IN A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING A FORMULA UNDER WHICH OTHER ARAB NATIONS MIGHT BE LED TO JOIN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS SOON TO BE RESUMED IN JERUSALEM. BOTH LEADERS SEEM TO HAVE CLEARED UP ANY APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT SURFACED LAST WEEK OVER THE NEED TO RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIANS.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SADAT

"I AM VERY HAPPY TO SAY THAT OUR VIEWS WERE IDENTICAL AND WE HAVE AGREED UPON CERTAIN STEPS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM OF THE PEACE PROCESS. WE ARE HEADING TOWARD PEACE, AND REAL PEACE IN THE AREA -- PERMANENT PEACE."

NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER REPEATED THE U.S. POSITION THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST HAVE A CHOICE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- CARTER

"THE PROBLEM MUST RECOGNIZE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND ENABLE THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DETERMINATION OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. SOME FLEXIBILITY IS ALWAYS NEEDED TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING VIEWS. WE KNOW THAT THE MARK OF GREATNESS AMONG LEADERS IS TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY THE VIEWS OF OTHERS."

NARR:

SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING ASWAN ABOARD THE PRESIDENTIAL PLANE, MISTER CARTER TELEPHONED ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN. HE TOLD MISTER BEGIN OF HIS TALKS WITH JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN, THE SHAH OF IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA'S LEADERS AND WITH PRESIDENT

NARR: (CONT'D)

SADAT. AFTER MISTER CARTER'S DEPARTURE, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID HE HOPES TO DISCLOSE THE NEW POINTS OF AGREEMENT WITH MISTER CARTER AFTER JANUARY FIFTEENTH -- THE DAY EGYPT AND ISRAEL WILL BEGIN TALKS IN JERUSALEM IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A COMPROMISE SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE WILL JOIN THESE TALKS. THE UNITED STATES FAVORS A GENERAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AS A MAJOR STEP IN BRINGING THE OTHER INTERESTED ARAB PARTIES INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

LATER IN THE WEEK, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN SAID A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM CANNOT BE ACHIEVED THROUGH SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE INHABITANTS OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. INSTEAD, HE SAID ISRAEL HAS FORMULATED A PEACE PLAN BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-RULE FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND SECURITY FOR THE ISRAELIS:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- BEGIN

"WE DO NOT BEAT AROUND THE BUSH. THE TERM "SELF DETERMINATION" MEANS A PALESTINIAN STATE AND WE WILL NOT AGREE TO SUCH A MORTAL DANGER TO ISRAEL. THE P.L.O. WILL TAKE IT OVER IN NO TIME. THEN IT WOULD TURN INTO A SOVIET BASE."

NARR:

CONTINUING HIS TRIP, PRESIDENT CARTER HELD TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING. THE TWO LEADERS DISCUSSED EFFORTS FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE HORN OF AFRICA. THEY ALSO SAW A VIVID REMINDER OF WAR DURING A VISIT TO THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, SITE OF THE ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE IN 1944.

PRESIDENT CARTER TOLD PRESIDENT GISCARD THAT HE IS ENCOURAGED BY HIS RECENT TALKS WITH MIDDLE EAST LEADERS, THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT ISSUES REMAIN, BUT THAT HE THINKS THE MOMENTUM CAN BE MAINTAINED.

CONCERN WAS ALSO EXPRESSED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA WHERE THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY BUILDUPS. BOTH LEADERS FEEL THE SITUATION REQUIRES RESTRAINT AND DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AROUND THE WORLD, THERE WERE REPORTS OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA -- THIS TIME BETWEEN THE TWO COMMUNIST REGIMES OF CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. VIETNAMESE FORCES ARE REPORTEDLY CONSOLIDATING THEIR CONTROL OVER BORDER AREAS OF EASTERN CAMBODIA AFTER HEAVY FIGHTING WITH CAMBODIAN GOVERNMENT TROOPS. WHILE VIETNAMESE FORCES ARE REPORTED MOVING NORTHWEST OF THE BORDER INTO CAMBODIA, OTHER VIETNAMESE UNITS AND PRO-VIETNAMESE CAMBODIANS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO BE TIGHTENING THEIR HOLD OVER THE SO-CALLED PARROT'S BEAK SECTION OF EASTERN CAMBODIA.

THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE BELIEVED OPERATING INSIDE CAMBODIA WITHIN SET LIMITS. THEY ARE SAID TO INCLUDE THE AREA EAST OF THE MEKONG RIVER AND NO CLOSER THAN ABOUT FIFTY KILOMETERS FROM THE CAMBODIAN COPITAL PHNOM PENH. DIPLOMATS AND OTHER SOURCES SAY THAT THE CAMBODIAN CAPITAL IS NOT THE ULTIMATE MILITARY OBJECTIVE OF THE VIETNAMESE. INSTEAD IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE VIETNAMESE WANT TO SECURE BORDER AREAS TO PREVENT FURTHER CAMBODIAN ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR TERRITORY.

THE FIGHTING IN INDOCHINA MAY ALSO FURTHER STRAIN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND CHINA. CAMBODIA'S

NARR: (CONT'D)

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE NOT CLOSE, WHILE VIETNAM IS BELIEVED TO HAVE MUCH CLOSER RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW THAN WITH PEKING. AND THIS WEEK THE SOVIET UNION OPENLY ACCUSED CHINA OF PROVOKING THE CURRENT FIGHTING BETWEEN THE TWO INDOCHINESE NEIGHBORS. THE SOVIET UNION CLAIMS THAT CHINESE ADVISERS ARE HELPING THE CAMBODIANS. IN AN ENGLISH LANGUAGE BROADCAST FROM MOSCOW THE SOVIET UNION SAID CHINESE AUTHORITIES CANNOT RECONCILE THEMSELVES WITH THE EXISTENCE OF A UNITED SOCIALIST VIETNAM WHICH, IN ITS WORDS, PURSUES A CONSTRUCTIVE FOREIGN POLICY COURSE AIMED AT PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

EARLY THIS YEAR, THE U.S. SENATE IS EXPECTED TO VOTE ON THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATIES AND AT THIS POINT THEIR CHANCES OF OBTAINING RATIFICATION APPEAR UNCERTAIN. THIS WEEK IN ANOTHER ROUND OF CONGRESSIONAL TRIPS TO PANAMA SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE TREATIES, PANAMANIAN CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, OMAR TORRIJOS MET WITH SENATE MINORITY LEADER HOWARD BAKER, WHOSE SUPPORT IS CONSIDERED CRUCIAL TO THE TREATIES' RATIFICATION.

SENATOR BAKER TOLD GENERAL TORRIJOS THAT THERE IS NO WAY THE TREATIES CAN WIN SENATE RATIFICATION UNLESS THEY ARE CHANGED. MISTER BAKER SAID HE FELT THE TREATIES COULD BE APPROVED WITH WHAT HE CALLED "CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS OR AMENDMENTS TO GUARANTEE CERTAIN RIGHTS." SENATOR BAKER SAID IF THE SENATE ADOPTS THE AMENDMENTS THAT HE AND OTHER SENATORS PLAN TO PROPOSE, THEN HE WOULD CERTAINLY SUPPORT THE TREATIES.

THE QUESTION OF AMENDING THE TREATIES IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR GENERAL TORRIJOS. PANAMANIANS APPROVED THE TREATIES THROUGH A PLEBISCITE LAST OCTOBER, AND MANY PANAMANIANS FEEL THAT THE

NARR: (CONT'D)

TREATIES ARE ALREADY TOO HEAVILY IN FAVOR OF THE UNITED STATES. ACCORDING TO U.S. AND PANAMANIAN OFFICIALS, ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION MAY LIE IN THE JOINT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ISSUED BY GENERAL TORRIJOS AND PRESIDENT CARTER LAST OCTOBER.

THAT STATEMENT SPECIFIED THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND PANAMA WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO ACT AGAINST ANY THREAT TO THE CANAL'S PERMANENT NEUTRALITY. AND IT SPECIFIED THAT U.S. WARSHIPS WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO TRANSIT THE CANAL QUICKLY IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY. GENERAL TORRIJOS IS SAID TO BE CONSIDERING MAKING THAT STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING PART OF THE NEW TREATIES.

THIS WEEK, THE UNITED STATES RETURNED HUNGARY'S NATIONAL SYMBOL, THE CROWN OF SAINT STEPHEN, TO BUDAPEST. SECRETARY OF STATE CYPRUS VANCE HEADED A DELEGATION OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS, LEGISLATORS AND PUBLIC MEMBERS. A FEW HOURS AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, THE HUNGARIAN PEOPLE RECEIVED THE CROWN IN A FORMAL CEREMONY AT THE PARLIAMENT BUILDING.

THE CROWN, TOGETHER WITH OTHER ROYAL JEWELS, WAS RETURNED TO BUDAPEST IN SPITE OF PROTESTS BY HUNGARIAN EMIGREES IN THE UNITED STATES AND COURT CHALLENGES. THEY FELT THAT THIS SYMBOL OF HUNGARY'S ACCEPTANCE INTO THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO A COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT ALIGNED WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

WHEN SOVIET TROOPS WERE APPROACHING BUDAPEST AT THE END OF THE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THE CUSTODIANS OF THE ROYAL CROWN TURNED IT OVER TO AMERICAN ARMY TROOPS FOR FEAR IT WOULD FALL INTO RUSSIAN HANDS. IT WAS THEN TAKEN TO FORT KNOX IN KENTUCKY WHERE IT REMAINED AWAITING IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND ITS

EVENTUAL RETURN TO HUNGARY. AMERICAN OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT THE CROWN IS BEING RETURNED TO HUNGARY'S PEOPLE AND NOT TO THE GOVERNMENT OR THE COMMUNIST PARTY.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS _____. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT _____ WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

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JS/PBM/LPY